

Royal Air Forces Association
1357 Benalmádena Branch
Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held at
The Galaxy Bar, Avda Bonanza, Arroyo de la Miel At 13.00hrs on Monday 26th January 2009

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

Members

Reg Haywood
Steve Mullis
Doug Heron
Jack Griggs
Fred Briggs
Derek Brown
Cedric Sayce
Jack Crossland
Julie Mullis
Mike Durrant
Joan Burton
Bill Dixon
Colin Stubbs
Peter Griggs

Associate Members

Kathy Durrant
Sandra Martin
Barbara Briggs
Alan Gibson
Pamela Cheek
Gloria Haywood

1. The meeting was declared open and the Chairman, Mr Fred Briggs, chaired the meeting after offering the Chair to the Acting President and having it returned to him. After the reading of the RAFA dedication by Bill Dixon, a minute's silence was held.
2. Apologies have been received from: Corinne Mudie, Marie Morgan and Andy Blyth.
3. The minutes of the 2008 AGM were read and accepted, proposed by Steve Mullis and seconded by Bill Dixon. Carried unanimously.

4. Chairmans Address

Good Afternoon ladies and gentlemen, its nice to see so many of you at this years AGM and also a very special welcome to our new members,.We look forward to seeing you at our various events and hope that you enjoy yourselves and make many new friends. The year started sadly with the loss of our president, Walter Hartley who will be missed by all of us. We have been fortunate in that our Vice President, Bill Dixon, has stepped in and represented the Branch in Walters absence. Later you will see that Bill has kindly agreed to stand for President in the election of Officers of the Branch. The year has been a difficult one from a fund raising angle, with the current financial situation affecting many, the exchange rates also contributing to the problems. We also lost the RAF band concert to bureaucracy the result being the loss of a good fund raiser, hopefully this year we will be able to resurrect these annual concerts. The Wings Appeal Airport collection was also down on previous years for a variety of reasons and the Committee have agreed that we need to look in detail at the collecting arrangements and make adjustments to get maximum return for the effort put in. We will be looking for more collectors later in the year so be prepared. One of the reasons for the Association being in existence is to help those ex-RAF personnel who may be in need and any money collected

by us helps provide that very necessary service. Our own Welfare Members deal with cases every month and some of these cases are long term, so any help is gratefully received. I would like to thank your Committee for all the work they have done and the time they have given over the past year and really hope that they continue to offer their services. And now we will proceed with the main body of this AGM.

5. Hon. Treasurer's Annual Report:

Once again I would like to start my report by thanking our Auditor, Alan Gibson, for his timely inspection of the Branch Accounts. You should all have a copy of the Balance Sheet, so I will just highlight some of the salient items. A copy is attached to these minutes.

2008 was a difficult year financially as can be seen from the considerable reduction in our Wings Appeal collections. The airport collection was only slightly down, but the year-round collection, from RAFA boxes in various establishments in the area, and from personal collections, saw a reduction of about 1500 euros.

Welfare receipts, these are the funds we receive from the RAF Benevolent Fund for our Welfare clients, almost doubled, as did our payments to those in need. This meant of course more work for the Welfare team, but by close co-operation with the RBL Country Officer based in the British Consulate, we were able to reallocate some of our more remote cases, thus reducing the Welfare expenses bill by half from the previous year.

The Social team, although new to the job, did some splendid work throughout the year. Although Social income was only about half that of 2007, the profit made for the Branch almost doubled. Well done.

Finally the Branch remains on a sound financial footing, but it will take a lot of hard work from the Committee and, hopefully, supported by you the members to maintain this position. You don't need me to tell you that there are hard times ahead.

That ends my report for 2008.

Alan Gibson explained the new Balance Sheet layout and also thanked the Treasurer for keeping exemplary accounts.

Acceptance of Audited Accounts for 2008 was proposed by Derek Brown, seconded by Doug Heron and Carried Unanimously.

6. Election of Officers and Members of the Committee

Before the Elections, Jack Griggs explained that there were a couple of changes to the proposed Committee for 2009 which had been approved by the Committee. These changes are reflected in that there can be 2 Vice-Presidents, and that as there is now a full committee the Membership duties are to be re-absorbed into the Secretary's duties. These changes are covered by RAFA Standing Orders. The committee for 2009 is as follows:

President..... Flt.Lt.Bill Dixon QGM Elected for a 3 Year period.

Proposed Fred Briggs, Seconded Jack Griggs, Carried Unanimously

Vice President Douglas Heron

Proposed Sandra Martin, Seconded Jack Griggs, Carried Unanimously

Vice President Steve Mullis

Proposed Jack Griggs, Seconded Fred Briggs, Carried Unanimously

Chairman..... Fred Briggs

Proposed Jack Griggs, Seconded Reg Haywood, Carried Unanimously

Vice Chairperson..... Corrine Mudie

Proposed Fred Briggs, Seconded Jack Griggs, Carried Unanimously

Secretary.....Jack Griggs

Proposed Cedric Sayce, Seconded Fred Briggs, Carried Unanimously.

Treasurer..... Reg Haywood

Proposed Corinne Mudie, Seconded Jack Griggs, Carried Unanimously.

Welfare Officer..... Derek Brown

Proposed Corinne Mudie, Seconded Fred Briggs, Carried Unanimously.

Welfare Team Reg Haywood & Corrine Mudie

Not required to be elected but offered to vote for reasons of confidence. Carried Unanimously.

Public Relations Officer Cedric Sayce

Proposed Fred Briggs, Seconded Jack Griggs, Carried Unanimously.

Social Events Coordinator Sandra Martin

Proposed Jack Griggs, Seconded Corinne Mudie, Carried Unanimously.

Social Events CoordinatorGloria Haywood

Proposed Cedric Sayce, Seconded Derek Brown, Carried Unanimously.

Wings Appeal Organiser No new volunteer came forward and therefore Doug Heron agreed to continue in this role. Nomination to be formalised but a vote carried this Unanimously.

Branch Annual & Area Conference Delegate....Steve Mullis

Proposed Julie Mullis, Seconded Reg Haywood, Carried Unanimously.

Branch Auditor Mr Alan Gibson

Proposed Fred Briggs, Seconded Cedric Sayce, Carried Unanimously

9. Resolutions for discussion

1. Proposed by Mr Reg Haywood (Treasurer) and seconded by Mr J Griggs (Secretary), that the Branch Annual subscription remains unchanged at €15 for the year 2009.

Carried Unanimously.

Reg Haywood also explained that the Branch had to set exchange rates to be used for Branch finance calculations. This was set at 1.15GBP/€ in January 2009 and is to be reviewed quarterly, or sooner if required due to the current financial climate.

10. Presidents Address. The new President, Flt.Lt.Bill Dixon QGM, spoke of his delight at being given the honour of becoming our President. He outlined his visit to the Southern hemisphere where he presented a Photograph of the War Grave of the RAAF officer buried in the English cemetery in Malaga (see report in Airmail Jan 2009). He also represented the Branch at Memorial Parades in UK. Following up the RAAF presentation in Australia, they have recently been in touch and are sending over a plaque for us to lay at the grave each Remembrance Sunday and they are extremely grateful that their fallen dead are not forgotten.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 13.50 hrs

The date for next years AGM would be decided by the branch committee and notified in the committee minutes and in accordance with Standing Instructions.

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION

BENALMÁDENA BRANCH 1357

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year ending 31st December, 2008

	Euros	Euros
Membership Subscriptions	172.40	
Branch Subscriptions	210.00	
Membership Renewals	92.80	
Total Received for Membership		475.20
Social Income	3,484.50	
Less Expenses	-1,738.99	
Net Surplus on Social Events		1,745.51
Wings Appeal- Airport Collection	2,308.85	
Boxes Etc.	648.16	
	2,957.01	
Less sent to RAFA H.Q.	-2,956.91	
Net Amount Retained		0.10
Donations		213.00
Grants Received for Welfare	62,972.48	
Less Payments made	-61,258.71	
Net Amount Retained for Further Payments		1,713.77
Expenses of Welfare		-1,842.34
RAFA Trading Items sold	62.00	
Branch Promotional Items Sold	8.50	
	70.50	
Less Branch Promotional Items Bought	-78.27	
Remaining Stock held		-7.77
Bank Charges		-70.03
Audit Fee		-15.00
Administration- Postage	-28.18	
Stationery	-21.55	
Equipment Storage	-270.00	
Miscellaneous	-52.00	
		-371.73
Net Increase in Funds		1,840.71
Bank Account at 1st January, 2008	18,040.23	
Bank Account at 31st December, 2008	19,880.94	
Net Increase in Funds		1,840.71

I confirm that I have examined the accounts of the Royal Air Forces Association, Benalmádena Branch for the year ending 31st December, 2008, and I have found them to be a true recrd of the financial situation of the Branch.



Alan Hugh Gibson

Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers, London

Comments.

The Accounts have been kept in their usual immaculate manner.